

dropped over the last 8 years, and the reading achievement gap between white students and minority students has widened even further.

These disappointing results are yet more evidence that simply spending more money on education does not necessarily improve student achievement.

President Bush's Reading First Initiative gives States both the funds and the tools they need to eliminate the reading deficit. It focuses on effective proven methods of reading instruction based on proven scientific research.

Research continues to show that reading failure has devastating effects on self-esteem, social development, and opportunities for advanced education and meaningful employment. By funding effective reading instruction programs, President Bush's plan, H.R. 1, ensures that more children will receive the help they need before they fall further behind.

CHINA SHOULD OPEN DIALOGUE WITH TIBET

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, Monday evening a bipartisan group of us went to New York to welcome the democratically-elected President of Taiwan Chen Shui-Bian. What a joy it was to see the leader of a country that was destitute and dictatorial just a few decades ago, and it is now a political democracy and one of the most successful economies on the face of this planet.

This morning, Mr. Speaker, I welcome on behalf of scores of our colleagues across both sides of this aisle His Holiness the Dhalī Lama, a man of remarkable moral authority, who speaks truth to power. I call on the Chinese Government in Beijing to begin a dialogue with this great leader so that the Tibetan people at long last can live, preserving their cultural and religious heritage.

The Dhalī Lama honors us with his presence and all of us in this body are delighted to welcome him to the United States.

FATHER EMIL KAPAUN, A TRUE AMERICAN HERO

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true American hero, a priest, soldier and POW, Chaplain Emil Kapaun. Today, we remember that 50 years ago Father Kapaun died in a Communist POW camp during the Korean war.

A chaplain in the United States Army's Eighth Cavalry Regiment, Father Kapaun and his unit found them-

selves in a perilous situation on the Korean battlefield. A wounded soldier lay completely exposed and could not be accessed because of intense machine gun and small arms fire.

With total disregard for his personal safety, Father Kapaun went after the wounded man and successfully evacuated him, saving his life. Later, captured and as a prisoner of war, Father Kapaun continued to minister to his flock of fellow POWs. He encouraged and inspired others by his peaceful, courageous demeanor. He continually risked his health and life by giving all he had to his fellow soldiers.

Ultimately, these acts of selflessness contributed to his own untimely death.

So today on the 50th anniversary of his death, we honor his courage and reflect on the heroism and the spiritual devotion of this great man.

WITHOUT GOD HONORED BY OUR NATION, EVEN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE WILL NOT SAVE US

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Arizona public schools will begin each day by reciting the Declaration of Independence. I applaud Arizona, but it is not enough.

America was founded on religious freedom, guaranteeing that there would not be one state-sponsored religion, but the Founders never intended to outlaw, to prohibit and to kill school prayer.

The Declaration of Independence was drafted to ensure rights, not to limit rights. All schools in America should have the right to allow school prayer if they should choose to do so, period. And America, without God, will not be saved by the Declaration of Independence.

I yield back the rape, murder, drugs, guns, and violence in America's schools.

MILLIONS IN AMERICA SUFFER FROM BLINDNESS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, over 1 million Americans are legally blind and 80 million Americans are at risk for developing diseases that potentially can cause blindness. Currently, more than 6 million Americans suffer from retinal degenerative diseases. In my State of Florida, an estimated 1 million people are affected by these problems.

My constituents, Ilana Lidsky and her husband Patrick McGuinn, have traveled to our Nation's Capitol today to learn about recent gene therapy

that has actually given sight to Lancelot, a Briard dog born with a blinding genetic mutation. This recent National Eye Institute-supported research that has given sight to Lancelot holds promise for children born blind and for persons like Ilana and her siblings who suffer from retinitis pigmentosa, a disease that may lead to blindness.

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Today, eye and vision disorders cost society \$38 billion every year, and this cost will escalate unless existing research opportunities are vigorously pursued.

The Alliance for Eye and Vision Research and the Foundation Fighting Blindness are to be congratulated for their gene therapy research that will soon find a cure for blindness.

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN G. RUSSELL BROWN

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain G. Russell Brown, a native of Astoria, Queens, New York. After almost 40 years of service, Captain Brown is retiring from serving our Nation in the United States Navy. During the course of his career, Captain Brown has been willing to make tremendous sacrifices for his country. He has given his life to service of his country in our Navy.

He entered the Navy in 1962 and began to work at the Hospital Corps School 2 years later. He served our Nation in Vietnam and after his return, he served posts in the Navy throughout the world. During the last 30 years, Captain Brown has served in California, Germany, Italy and Midway Island. Throughout that entire time, he has always been willing to sacrifice for his country.

Captain Brown, along with his wife, the former Gillian Ann Collett of Reading, England, has 2 daughters, Rebecca Evelyn and Heather Ann.

On behalf of the people he has served for so many years, I would like to thank him for his service to our Navy and our country. I would also like to offer his family the best of luck as he moves into life outside of our Armed Forces.

PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR INDONESIA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the government of Indonesia to ensure that the roots of democracy are firmly established so the Indonesian people can enjoy peace and prosperity